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REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 25, and 26 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Applicants' representative acknowledges with appreciation the indication of claim 25 as allowable, and claims 14, 15, 17 as being allowable subject to being recast in independent form and reciting limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14 and 17 have been recast in independent form.

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during the telephone interview of 09/15/03, wherein amending independent claims 1, 9, 10, 26 to recite a limitation of a pen slot arrangement was noted as allowable subject matter. Applicants' representative also seeks allowance of new claims 28, 29 that recite the pen slot aspect, which is deemed allowable subject matter by the Examiner. A current version of all pending claims is at pages 2-6 of this Reply.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Objection to Claims 14, 15 and 17

Claims 14, 15 and 17 have been objected to for depending upon a rejected base claim. Claim 14, and 17 have been recast in independent form in independent form to recite limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and recite limitations noted by the Examiner as allowable subject matter. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Trahan *et al.* (US Patent 5,257,414). Claims 2, 5, 6, depend from independent claim 1, which along with independent claim 26 have been amended herein to recite limitations noted by the Examiner as allowable subject matter. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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III. Rejection of Claims 3 and 4 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Trahan *et al.* Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 1 that has been amended herein to recite limitations noted by the Examiner as allowable subject matter. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims 7-13 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 7-13, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Trahan *et al.* in view of Petrella *et al.* (US Patent 5,946,395) or Ford *et al.* (US Patent 5,625,688). Claims 7, 8, and claims 11-13, 16 depend from independent claim 1 and independent claim 10, respectively, which along with independent claim 9 have been amended to recite limitations noted by the Examiner as allowable subject matter. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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V. CONCLUSION

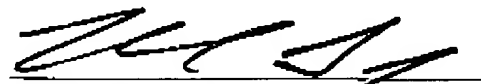
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP



Himanshu S. Amin

Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731

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